Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 SAJ-01 /081 W

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R 311208Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6811

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USUN NEW YORK 234

CONFIDENTIAL BUDAPEST 2990

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KN, KS, US, UNGA, HU

SUBJ: KOREA: PRO-NORTH KOREAN RESOLUTION SUBMITTED TO UN AND

PANMUNJON INCIDENT

REF: (A) STATE 212814, (B) STATE 184201

1. IN VIEW OF UNAVAILABILITY HIGHER MFA OFFICIALS, EMBASSY OFFICER AUGUST 27 CALLED ON OIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS (KISS) TO CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS REF A, MAKING ESSENTIALLY POINTS CONTAINED PARAS 1 AND 2 REFTEL A. EMBASSY OFFICER EXPRESSED REGRET THAT GOH HAD FELT IT NECESSARY TO SUPPORT NORTH KOREAN POSITIONS ADDING THAT SUCH ACTION WAS INCONSISTENT WITH IMPROVING U.S.-HUNGARIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS. SAID THAT WHILE USG HAD SOME UNDERSTANDING OF PRESSURES ON GOH TO MAINTAIN SOLIDARITY WITH ITS COMMUNIST ALLIES, USG COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY GOH DID NOT RECOGNIZE HYPOCRISY OF NORTH KOREAN POSITION AND DAMAGE SUPPORT FOR IT DID CONFIDENTIAL

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TO GOH CREDIBILITY IN INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON ISSUES SUCH

AS PANMUNJON WHEN HUNGARY'S "FRIENDS" SO CLEARLY IN WRONG.

- 2. KISS TOOK COPIOUS NOTES AND AT END OF PRESENTATION ASKED "FRANKLY" WHAT USG EXPECTED AS RESULT OF THIS DEMARCHE. HE WAS TOLD THAT U.S. EXPECTED HIM TO INFORM HIS SUPERIORS AND OTHER HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS CONCERNED OF THE SENSE OF OUTRAGE IN U.S. OVER PANMUNJON INCIDENT AND THE EFFECT THAT THESE FEELINGS COULD HAVE ON IMPROVING U.S.-HUNGARIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS, GIVEN GOH UNQUESTIONING SUPPORT FOR NORTH KOREAN VERSION OF EVENTS. USG HOPED THAT IN FUTURE GOH WOULD AVOID SUCH CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH NORTH KOREAN POSITION EXEMPLIFIED BY SUPPORT FOR PRO-NORTH KOREAN UNGA RESOLUTION AND TREATMENT OF PANMUNJON INCIDENT. MORE OBJECTIVITY IS CLEARLY REQUIRED.
- 3. EARLIER, ON AUGUST 9, EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER HAD CALLED ON HUNGARIAN FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR UN POLITICAL AFFAIRS (EDE GAZDIK) TO REQUEST GOH TO USE WHAT INFLUENCE IT HAD TO ENCOURAGE NORTH KOREANS TO TAKE CONCILIATORY AND REASONABLE POSTURE ON SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PROPOSAL FOR A CONFERENCE ON THE KOREAN ISSUE BETWEEN PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED. AFTER LISTENING ATTENTIVELY GAZDIK REPEATED STANDARD NORTH KOREAN ARGUMENTS THAT U.S. SHOULD WITHDRAW TROOPS, UN COMMAND SHOULD BE ABOLISHED, ETC. HE VOLUNTEERED PERSONAL OPINION THAT NORTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT WOULD NEVER AGAIN NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY WITH PRESENT SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT.
- 4. ON AUGUST 23 KISS REQUESTED EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER TO CALL AT FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE INFORMED HIM THAT SINCE NORTH KOREANS HAD ALREADY ANNOUNCED THEIR POSITION, IT WOULD SERVE NO PURPOSE FOR HUNGARIANS TO TAKE UP MATTER WITH THEM AS IT WOULD HAVE NO EFFECT. HE DID NOT GO INTO MERITS OF NORTH KOREAN OR U.S. POSITION AND WAS OBVIOUSLY EAGER TO SAY AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE ON THE KOREAN ISSUE. EMBASSY OFFICER HAD IMPRESSION THAT KISS WAS PROVIDING PERFUNCTORY REPLY, IN PART BECAUSE EMBASSY IN RECENT MONTHS HAS COMPLAINED TO MFA RE ITS LACK OF CONFIDENTIAL.

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REACTION TO EMBASSY NOTES AND DEMARCHES.

5. COMMENT: BY THEIR STANDARDS GOH SUPPORT FOR NORTH KOREAN POSITION HAS CLEARLY BEEN PERFUNCTORY. EMBASSY OFFICER HAD IMPRESSION THAT KISS ACCEPTED THAT AMERICAN VERSION OF PANMUNJON INCIDENT WAS CLOSER TO TRUTH THAN NORTH KOREAN VERSION. GOH WILL, OF COURSE, CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN SOLIDARITY AT UN WITH ITS COMMUNIST ALLIES ON

THIS ISSUE. EMBASSY BELIEVES, HOWEVER, IT IS NEVERTHELESS USEFUL TO MAKE GOH LEADERS FULLY AWARE OF OUR DISPLEASURE SO THAT THEY CAN KEEP IN FRONT OF THEM OUR EXPECTATION THAT HUNGARY SHOULD HAVE MORE EVENHANDED APPROACH ON MATTERS OF CENTRAL INTEREST TO U.S. AND OF PERIPHERAL INTEREST TO HUNGARY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: TERRITORIAL REVERSION, MURDER, DMZ, RESOLUTIONS, BORDER INCIDENTS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 31 AUG 1976 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BLIDAPE02990

Document Number: 1976BUDAPE02990 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A Film Number: D760331-0827 From: BUDAPEST

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976085/aaaaadeu.tel Line Count: 122 Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION IO Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 3

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 76 STATE 212814, 76 STATE 184201 Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: CunninFX

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 12 APR 2004

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <02 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MÁY 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

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Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006